



## **Lincoln Conservation District**

**PO Box 2170**

**Eureka, MT 59917**

**Phone: 406-297-2233**

**Fax: 406-297-7533**



**RECEIVED**

**4/25/11**

**[www.lincolncd.org](http://www.lincolncd.org)**

**[lincolncd@interbel.net](mailto:lincolncd@interbel.net)**

April 20, 2011

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Michael Cirian, Remedial Project Manager  
108 E. 9th Street  
Libby, Montana 59923

**SUBJECT: Asbestos Clean-up**

Dear Mr. Cirian:

The Lincoln Conservation District would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and to express concern in recent asbestos clean up activities along streams in the Libby and Troy area. Montana Conservation Districts administer the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act, also known as the 310 Law. The law is intended to protect and preserve lands adjacent to streams and rivers in their natural or existing state.

The purpose of the 310 Law is to insure projects on perennial streams will be carried out in ways that are not damaging to the stream or to adjoining landowners. Any private individual or corporation proposing to undertake a project or construction activity in a perennial stream must first apply for a permit from the local conservation district.

The Conservation District fully understands the EPA is exempt from the 310 permitting requirements. We are also aware of several asbestos remediation projects undertaken by the EPA in the Libby area including Rainy Creek, Flower Creek, Kootenai River and Callahan Creek.

With each of these projects, citizen questions and concerns have come before our Board. Our only response has been we are not familiar with the technical aspects of the project and the EPA is exempt from the 310 Law. The response feeds frustration not only from our local citizens but also from our Board who feel it is our responsibility to be informed of these stream construction projects.

We would like to encourage the EPA to involve Lincoln Conservation District in future projects that impact perennial streams. Our supervisors and advisors, together, have decades of experience in watershed and natural resource management which includes extensive knowledge about the dynamics and history of our watersheds. In addition, we can provide valuable input in design and construction of these projects. The sharing of knowledge and information could result in improved projects that better conserve soil and water quality. Improved information sharing also improves our service to the public.

We would like to invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings to discuss these issues, explore ways the District can stay informed of these projects and keep our local citizens informed. Together we can better conserve Montana's soil and water resources.

---

Our Board meets monthly, alternating between Libby and Eureka. Please contact Becky Lihme, District Administrator, at (406) 297-2233 for further information regarding our meeting schedule.

Sincerely,  
Lincoln Conservation District



Susan Ennenbach  
Chairperson Lincoln Conservation District

SE/bl